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Mr. Gould has retained substantially intact the notes of the editor of the eighth edition, and also such notes of the editor of the seventh edition as were retained in the eighth edition. He has necessarily shortened the long notes of the earlier editions by omitting many of the long quotations and statements of cases which formed so noticeable a feature of the book. His own additions are almost wholly in separate notes, even when consisting merely of additional citations in support of a proposition in the text. This method enables the reader to determine readily whether a given annotation was added during the life of Professor Parsons or subsequently. On the other hand there is an unavoidable cumbrousness in several sets of notes on the same topic.

A great deal of work has evidently gone into the preparation of the new annotations. A thorough revision of the collections of state statutes relating to interest and usury and to married women has been made, and the citation of the latest decisions shows that the digests for the last ten years have been carefully examined. About six thousand new cases have been cited. So far as we have been able to examine the cases cited, they are pertinent. We regret that the editor has not more often cast his notes in the form of a systematic treatment of a special point instead of merely summarizing a number of cases, not always closely related, and we have noticed a few instances where he has stated cases really opposite in principle as if both were law.

The outward appearance of the book conforms to the high standard in this matter of its printers and publishers.

S. W.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF WILLS. By George E. Gardner. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1903. pp. xv, 726.

This book is the latest addition to the well-known Hornbook Series. In form, scope and general character, it follows the general lines of its predecessors. Also like most of the former publications, it purports to be but a general outline and working manual of its subject. As such the volume furnishes an excellent survey of the whole subject of the law of wills, covering, in some form at least, nearly every related topic. The discussion of the difficult matter of construction occupies a considerable proportion of the work and touches upon many important questions. The usual Hornbook form of black-letter texts and careful paragraphing contributes largely to the clearness of the analysis and the general accessibility of the material. The language, however, is at times rather crude, and the sentences occasionally unwieldy or poorly constructed.

To the student this volume should be particularly useful in giving a concise and comprehensive grasp of the subject. To the practitioner it will be serviceable as a general handbook, and with its numerous citations will furnish an excellent starting point for the study of any particular topic. But like its companion volumes, this book cannot take the place of the more detailed discussions to be found in more extensive works or in those devoted to narrower topics. The six pages, for example, devoted to the Rule against Perpetuities is a helpful summary, but the careful investigator must refer back to the treatise of Gray for any real assistance in solving his problems.

As writer and publisher continue to send forth so many of these handbooks and summary discussions, it is earnestly to be hoped that they will not neglect the full and detailed treatment of the many narrower divisions of the law which have never yet received adequate consideration, for it is such works as the latter that are to be the really helpful law books of the future. The general principles have for the most part been well settled. It is upon the more unusual and less familiar points that we need new light and intelligent criticism. Thus, though we welcome the Hornbooks, we wish that the energy expended upon them might be confined within narrower bounds and be directed upon this more important field. We should then hope to receive much more really creative work in the line of legal scholarship.

W. H. H.